

COMSIG POLICY ON THE USE OF SPINAL MANIPULATIVE THERAPY FOR ORGANIC OR VISCERAL DISORDERS.

Adopted October 1, 1992

*This policy should be read as a whole and selected extracts
should not be used in isolation.*

COMSIG recognises the classification of type "O" disorders as those organic or visceral diseases which have a clear or highly suspected pathological aetiology that can be attributed to one of the following pathological mechanisms:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| * infective | * nutritional |
| * inflammatory | * toxic |
| * neoplastic | * metabolic |
| * genetic | * congenital |
| * infiltrative | * circulatory |
| * (psychiatric) | * auto-immune |

1. Chiropractors and osteopaths should not encourage patients with type O disorders to resort to spinal manipulative therapy (SMT) in the hope of securing relief from that disorder unless the patient has exhausted (or is under concurrent) medical care. It is highly recommended that the patient suffering with a type O disorder should be medically monitored on a regular basis.
2. If a patient with a type O disorder wishes to consult a chiropractor or osteopath in the hope that some relief can be obtained, and if such treatment is contemplated by the practitioner on a trial basis then there should be no contraindications to SMT and patients should be encouraged to remain under medical care.
3. Chiropractors and osteopaths should be careful to avoid giving any impression that SMT will necessarily be beneficial to a patient with type a O disorder. In particular they should in such cases do nothing which discourages a patient from remaining under medical care. Ideally, they should communicate with and regularly consult the patients own medical practitioner. Although it is acknowledged that present medical attitudes may rule this type of co-operation out as a realistic possibility.
4. The effectiveness of chiropractic or osteopathic treatment of patients with type O disorders is too unpredictable to warrant freedom to chiropractors and osteopaths to advertise that their treatment is in anyway effective in the treatment of these disorders.
5. Although there is anecdotal evidence, there is no scientific evidence available (such as randomised controlled trials) which validates the use of SMT in the treatment of type O disorders. This is not to say that future research will not demonstrate a limited utility for SMT in the management of some of these conditions. COMSIG encourages such research.